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U. S. Department of Agriculture

New Era Chestnut Nursery

Swarthmore, Pa.

SEPTEMBER, 1948

WE SPECIALIZE in four things that are especially suited to the gardens, lanes, lawns, and orchards of the Southland. These four things are: 1. the Chinese Chestnut; 2. the Chinese Persimmon; 3. the thin-shelled, easy-cracking, large kernel black walnut; 4. the high bush blueberry.

1. The Chinese Chestnut. It is the Chinese Chestnut that makes the New Era.

All those who remember the delicious nuts and splendid trees of the American chestnut mourn the fact that the blight has killed almost every one of them. But cheer up, we now have a larger, better chestnut, right ready for every land owner on more than a million square miles of the United States, and they will bear much sooner than the old natives ever did.

The blight that killed the American chestnut came to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden with some plants from Japan. In 1904 the blight was discovered on nearby chestnut trees, and spread like waves from a pebble in a pond, until it has got to the northern, western, and southern limits of our magnificent eastern chestnut forests.

The Department of Agriculture and various private citizens promptly sent to China and got seed from trees of strains that had lived with the blight for an unknown length of time.

Trees from these imported nuts were scattered far and wide over the United States more than 30 years ago and now they have proved themselves by living, growing, bearing nuts from Massachusetts to southeastern Iowa and Oklahoma, from southern Michigan to northern Florida.

This widespread success shows that a tree lover can plant Chinese Chestnuts in at least half our states, and we have the trees ready for them to plant.

And you should plant grafted trees!

You do not plant seedling apple trees or seedling peach trees or seedling pear trees, just because the fruit that produced the seed was good. You take

grafted or budded trees, grown from buds or cions from the few best trees that have thus far been found or bred. In spite of this well established horticultural practice, dozens of people are selling seedling Chinese Chestnut trees. Some are even advertising to sell you trees for a certain sum of money without telling you how big the tree is.

Any seedling tree is uncertain and there is great variation among seedling Chinese Chestnut trees as to the speed of their growth, the time of their bearing, the regularity of their bearing, the size of the nut, the abundance of the crop, the flavor and other qualities of the nut itself. There is no evidence to indicate that a seedling orchard can approach in productivity an orchard of grafted trees of known parentage. Recently the U. S. government has released cions of their best chestnut up to date. It is named Nanking, and the record is surprising:

The seed was planted in 1936
in 1943 it bore 2.3 pounds
in 1944 it bore 34.4 pounds
in 1945 it bore 37.8 pounds
in 1946 it bore 1.0 pounds (due to big freeze)
in 1947 it bore 87.7 pounds
163.2 pounds in 5 years.

If that tree is given room, air and food, and no freezes, it will probably bear somewhere between 500 and 750 pounds in the next 5 years. A row of such trees would almost support a family at the present price of these nuts, of 40¢ to 50¢ a pound.

I have three other varieties of grafted chestnuts, the Abundance, the Connecticut Yankee and the Zimmerman. These have proved that they are certainly runners up for this surprising Nanking variety. The experimental stage is past. Plant now. You need two varieties for pollination.

The Chinese Chestnut has a tough glossy leaf, very resistant to pests and giving the tree a beautiful appearance—excellent for your lawn, your lane, your poultry yard, your chestnut orchards. It is fun to pick up chestnuts. If you yourself have rheumatism, the children will enjoy gathering the nuts.

NUTS IN 1952 OR SOONER

The chances are about 20 to one in your favor that you will get chestnuts in 1952 or possibly sooner if you plant in 1948 or 9 as follows: Plant one or more of each of two varieties of our grafted varieties near to each other (about 30 or 35 feet). Keep grass and weeds away from the trees until September first for 2 seasons. Fertilize well after the first year and you are in for a 2 party or a 3 party race depending on whether it is you and boys, or you, boys and squirrels.

Here is a passage from an unsolicited letter:

FROM: WASHINGTON, D. C. September 18, 1946.

"In the fall of 1945 I purchased twelve Chinese chestnut trees from your nursery *** To my utter amazement, these trees now bear little chestnuts. Needless to say, I am delighted. Many thanks for the excellent stock that you sent."

THE THRILL OF GATHERING NUTS

It thrills me to walk through the nursery in September and October and see the glossy brown nuts peeping out of opening burrs and the nice nuts in the grass.

Chinese Chestnuts To the Fore. Each year that I experiment with Chinese Chestnuts my opinion of them rises. If I were only 60 years old I'd plant a big field of them this year as my neighbor did, interplanted with peaches. Chestnuts are certainly the most productive of all nut trees. They are also the most precocious.

CHINESE CHESTNUT TREES THAT HAVE RIPENED NUTS

If you are in a hurry for nuts you can get chestnut trees that already have ripened some nuts. A few of our nursery trees have matured nuts. These trees have been carefully marked. If you want some of these proven trees add \$1.50 to the list price. All are grafted trees. If you want one, do not ask by variety, just ask for a proven tree 4-5 or 5-6 ft. and include the extra charge.

CUTTING BACK

Nut trees have prodigious roots—roots that are long and not fibrous. We have to cut away some of this long root before we send your trees. To plant a tree with only part of its roots and all of its top is to invite early death. I know for I have done it. Therefore we cut the tops back to establish balance

and to help insure the success of transplanting. Therefore you need not expect the trees to be very handsome on arrival, but wait until growth begins and then admire, and when the nuts begin you will rejoice.

WAXED TRUNKS

We wax the trunks with a special and expensive liquid wax, to reduce evaporation. The price of this unguent has jumped fabulously but we keep on using it. We think it increases the chance of survival and we want the trees you buy from us to grow. We can't keep on without your repeat orders and the orders from your friends who hear of your success.

2. Chinese Persimmons. One of the excitements of the year at New Era Chestnut Nursery has been Chinese persimmons. Thirty varieties have produced fruit and some trees had all they could possibly hold. In growth habit they resemble pears. Grafted trees. Fruits $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches in diameter. They are early bearers as well as fruitful and doubly beautiful. A high class lawn ornament, and delicious fruit. The tree resembles the orange with thick dark glossy foliage.

3. The Black Walnut. The Black walnut is one of the most majestic trees in America, and it bears wonderful nuts.

Grafted Walnut trees are as much superior to seedlings as are grafted apple trees, and the Thomas variety has been tested longest. It stands the cold of southern Canada and does well in the heats of Texas. The nut has excellent flavor, the shell cracks easily, and kernels usually come out in complete quarters. Fine for nut bread, nut candy or crop to sell.

Ohio variety is a rival of the Thomas and the tree is especially beautiful because of its perfect symmetry.

Black walnuts are the nuts that keep their flavor in cooking.

How about a row of them down your lane? Our 6-7 ft. Thomas are extra heavy, very fine. Will bear in a hurry. See this unsolicited letter!

PITTSSTOWN, N. J. 7/19/43. "What surprises me most of all is the fact that I have walnuts on 3 Thomas. They were 6 foot trees when planted in the spring of 1941." The variety is precocious and productive."

Seedlings of the Thomas variety are unusually vigorous and often resemble the Thomas. I have some that were pollinated by Ohio and other good varieties. These are the best seedlings in America for quality nuts.

4. The Highbush Blueberry is one of the newest things in the American garden. They are wonderful to eat and have almost as wide a climate range as the Chinese Chestnut. I am growing them along the stumps where I cut down a bit of hardwood forest on the Blue Ridge Mountain at 1350 feet, 39° N latitude. I'm also growing them in a clay loam field where sweet clover was growing 3 years ago. See the accompanying leaflet.

The arrival of this new crop is the horticultural sensation of the decade. I have 3 varieties. They will give you a succession of berries for 5 or 6 weeks beginning in June in the climate of central New Jersey and earlier as one goes south. Be sure to read our blueberry leaflet and try the Blueberry Kings Packet. All right for southern Maine, New Hampshire and southern Wisconsin and down to southern North Carolina and west to the Mississippi.

To reduce risk we ship blueberries only in the spring, but take orders in the fall.

A LIVING MONUMENT

The boy returns. Father celebrates—plants a row of nut trees. One man I know has planted a memorial grove of nut trees in memory of the son who came not back.

What better monument to the beloved departed than a nut tree or a grove of them. They get greener and grander for generations. Also a good way for the returned veteran to celebrate his own return.

AN EASTER GIFT, A CHRISTMAS GIFT OR BIRTHDAY PRESENT

Nut trees are effective gifts. Just think how much longer they last than does a box of candy or almost any other gift that you can name.

You order the trees from us and we will notify your friends at the proper time as requested if date precedes proper date of shipment.

CELEBRATE THE BABY

Plant a couple of chestnut trees the year the baby comes. When he or she is big enough to have pockets

there will be nuts to fill them. Why not give trees for your friend's baby?

Address and Make Checks Payable To NEW ERA CHESTNUT NURSERY, SWARTHMORE, PA.

Do not telephone Swarthmore about trees. Do not call there about trees. It is a strictly mail order office. The trees are far away on the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. Your letters will receive prompt attention, so will your orders, but remember that a big rain may wet our clay soil and hold us up for 3 or 4 more days after the rain at any time. Order early. Give us all the time you can.

C L A I M S

After the tree reaches the customer, the nurseryman cannot influence its treatment. Hence the custom among nurserymen: *no claim can be considered unless made within 10 days after receipt of the trees.*

PRICE LIST NEW ERA CHESTNUT NURSERY SWARTHMORE, PA.

The Nursery is on the Blue Ridge Mountain in Northern Virginia but the sales office is at Swarthmore, Pa.

This price list cancels all previous lists and will be cancelled June 1, 1949.

All trees are grafted unless otherwise specified. Will be shipped by express, bare root and properly cut back unless some other arrangement is agreed upon.

Prices F. O. B. Railway Express office, Purcellville, Va. Please be sure to give your CURRENT SHIPPING ADDRESS. We do hate to send a tree to the wrong place. It is surprising how many people give incorrect address. Do check it.

Terms: Cash with order.

For parcel post shipments, add 10% to order. We strongly recommend express.

Our stock is so limited in quantity that we cannot make any concession in price for large orders, except that we will sell 12 for the price of 10, in Chinese Chestnuts and Thomas Black Walnuts. The dozen rate applies only to three or more trees of the

same variety and size. 50 Chinese Chestnuts, 20% off single tree price. Will give special hundred rate to those planting orchards of chestnut and black walnut.

POULTRY YARD SPECIAL

Three grafted trees, 2½-3 feet and up. Some of them may be slightly crooked, but they will soon straighten themselves and bear as well as any. Chicken yard is an especially good place for them. Three trees \$10.00.

Grafted Chinese Chestnuts. Don't forget that these are *grafted* chestnut trees.

Blueberries. Blueberry Kings packet, thrifty 2 year plants 12-18 inches, equal number of each variety in each packet. These are expensive new varieties and these prices are lower than the same plants from any other retailer known to me. I have recently examined a number of retail catalogs and not one was offering all three of the Kings varieties. One listed two of them at 60 cents a plant higher than we offer.

New varieties of blueberries have to be expensive because they are grown from cuttings and this makes propagation slow and costly. A variety starts with *one* small plant.

packets of 6—\$8.94 12—\$15.60 24—\$28.80
36—\$39.50

Extra, with each 2 dozen, one old favorite, Jersey. Two Jerseys with 3 dozen packet. Please do not ask for single plants.

NUT TREES & PERSIMMONS	3-4 ft. Ea.	4-5 ft. Ea.	5-6 ft. Ea.	6-8 ft. Ea.
<i>Chinese Chestnut, Grafted</i>				
all varieties	\$4.00	\$4.25	\$4.60	\$
<i>Black Walnut ✓</i>				
✓ Thomas, Ohio	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.50
Thomas seedlings	1.25			
<i>Chinese Persimmon</i>				
all varieties	5.50	6.00	6.50	